

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 19, 27 and 34. The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the reissue application:

1. (Original) A vacuum cleaner bag docking assembly for use with a vacuum bag having a substantially rigid mounting collar surrounding a bag opening and a vacuum cleaner having a dirty air outlet nozzle configured to project through the bag opening and into the vacuum bag; the assembly comprising:

an anchor member having a central opening therein for closely, releasably receiving the dirty air outlet nozzle; and

a mounting member releasably coupled to the anchor member to retain the anchor member in engagement with the dirty air outlet nozzle, the mounting member having a portion thereof for engaging the collar to secure the vacuum bag to the mounting member for movement therewith; the mounting member having an opening oriented for registration with the bag opening; the mounting member pivotally connected to the anchor member for movement between a loading position in which the vacuum bag is inserted or removed from the mounting member and a working position in which the bag opening engages the dirty air outlet nozzle.

2. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the dirty air outlet nozzle has an engagement section for receiving the anchor member; the anchor member is composed of a resilient material; and the anchor member has an entrance channel continuous with the central opening and a neck at a point along the entrance channel that is narrower than the engagement section, the anchor member being sufficiently resiliently deformable when the mounting member is disengaged therefrom to permit the anchor member to be mounted on or removed from the dirty air outlet nozzle and sufficiently rigid when the mounting member is engaged therewith to restrict the anchor member from being removed from the dirty air outlet nozzle.

3. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the loading position is separated from the working position by an angle greater than 90 degrees.

4. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the mounting member is substantially planar, the anchor member is substantially planar, and the anchor member is constructed to have a shape complementary to the opening in the mounting member so that the assembly is substantially planar when in the working position.

5. (Original) The assembly of claim 4 further comprising a latch operable to releasably retain the assembly in the working position.

6. (Original) The assembly of claim 5 wherein the latch comprises a protrusion extending from the edge of the anchor member that engages the opening in the mounting member when the assembly is in the working position.

7. (Original) A vacuum cleaner bag docking assembly, as claimed in claim 1, for use with vacuum cleaner bags having a retainer opening in the collar, the assembly comprising:

a protuberance on the mounting member positioned to be received by the retainer opening in the collar to hold the bag in place after insertion.

8. (Original) The assembly of claim 7 for use with a vacuum cleaner bag having the retainer opening positioned on a sliding panel in the collar and wherein the protuberance located on the mounting member such that removal of the collar from the mounting member while the protuberance is engaged with the retainer opening causes the sliding panel to move from an open position in which dirt is permitted to enter and exit the bag opening to a closed position in which dirt is prevented from entering or exiting the bag opening.

9. (Amended) An upright vacuum cleaner comprising:

a handle assembly, at least a portion thereof comprising a dirty air conduit;

a vacuum bag;

a dirty air outlet nozzle mounted to the handle assembly, the nozzle communicating with the dirty air conduit and projecting from the dirty air conduit for engagement with the vacuum bag;

an anchor member having a central opening for closely, releasably receiving the nozzle, the anchor member being sufficiently deformable to permit the central opening to be engaged with or removed from the nozzle; and

a mounting member releasably connected to the anchor member and movable between a loading position in which the vacuum bag is inserted into or removed from the mounting member and a working position in which an opening in the vacuum bag engages the nozzle, the mounting member restricting deformation of the anchor member when connected thereto to restrict the anchor member from being removed from the nozzle.

10. (Original) The assembly of claim 9 wherein the loading position is separated from the working position by an angle greater than 90 degrees.

11. (Original) The assembly of claim 9 further comprising a latch operable to releasably retain the assembly in the working position.

12. (Original) A vacuum cleaner bag docking assembly, as claimed in claim 9, for use with vacuum bags having a retainer opening in the collar, the assembly comprising:

a protuberance on the mounting member positioned to be received by the retainer opening in the collar to hold the vacuum bag in place after insertion.

13. (Original) The assembly of claim 12 for use with a vacuum cleaner bag with the retainer opening positioned on a sliding panel in the collar and wherein the protuberance is located on the mounting member such that removal of the collar from the mounting member while the protuberance is engaged with the retainer opening causes the sliding panel to move from an open position in which dirt is permitted to enter and exit the bag opening to a closed position in which dirt is prevented from entering or exiting the bag opening.

14. (Original) A vacuum cleaner bag docking assembly, as claimed in claim 1, for use with vacuum cleaner bags in which the collar has opposing side margins, an end margin, and corner portions between the end margin and the opposing side margins, and in which at least one corner portion is beveled at an angle to the end margin and the adjacent side margin; the bag

docking assembly comprising a portion which closely conforms to the at least one corner portion.

15. (New) A vacuum cleaner bag comprising:
an air-permeable bag having an opening; and
a collar attached to the bag surrounding the opening, the collar having an end edge, a first side edge, a second side edge opposing the first side edge, an orientation surface, and a recess adjacent the end edge,

wherein the first and second side edges are in a generally vertical orientation during use, the end edge is in a generally horizontal orientation during use, the first and second side edges are free from the bag, the orientation surface comprises an angled surface extending from the first side edge to the end edge, and the orientation surface is adapted to orient the opening of the bag.

16. (New) The vacuum cleaner bag of Claim 15, wherein the orientation surface comprises a chamfered corner of the collar.

17. (New) The vacuum cleaner bag of Claim 15, wherein the collar includes a second orientation surface extending from the second side edge to the end edge.

18. (New) The vacuum cleaner bag of Claim 15, wherein the collar further includes a retainer opening.

19. (Canceled)

20. (New) The vacuum cleaner bag of Claim 15, wherein the collar further includes an elastic seal surrounding the bag opening.

21. (New) The vacuum cleaner bag of Claim 15, wherein the collar further includes a sliding panel that slides between an open position and a closed position over the bag opening.

22. (New) The bag of Claim 21, wherein the collar further includes a positive stop limiting the movement of the sliding panel.
23. (New) The vacuum cleaner bag of Claim 21, wherein the collar further includes a retainer opening.
24. (New) A bag for receipt in a mounting member having a channel and a first orientation surface, the bag comprising:
an air-permeable bag having an opening; and
a collar attached to said bag surrounding said opening, said collar having an end edge, a recess adjacent said end edge for surrounding a retainer member of the mounting member, a first side edge, a second side edge opposing said first side edge, and a second orientation surface, said second orientation surface extending from said first side edge to said end edge, said second orientation surface being complementary to the first orientation surface of the mounting member,
wherein said second orientation surface is adapted to orient said opening of said bag upon contact with the first orientation surface of the mounting member.
25. (New) The bag of claim 24, wherein said second orientation surface comprises a chamfered corner of said collar.
26. (New) The bag of Claim 24, wherein said collar further includes a retainer opening for engagement with the mounting member.
27. (Canceled)
28. (New) The bag of Claim 24, wherein said collar includes a third orientation surface extending from said second side edge to said end edge.
29. (New) The bag of Claim 24, wherein said collar further includes a sliding panel that slides between an open position and a closed position over the bag opening.

30. (New) The bag of Claim 29, wherein said collar further includes a retainer opening for engaging the mounting member.
31. (New) The bag of Claim 30, wherein said retainer opening is adapted to engage the mounting member such that a force necessary to move said sliding panel is less than a second force necessary to disengage the mounting member from said retainer opening of said collar.
32. (New) The bag of Claim 29, wherein said collar further includes a positive stop limiting the movement of said sliding panel.
33. (New) The bag of Claim 24, wherein said collar has a thickness less than the channel of the mounting member channel.
34. (Canceled)
35. (New) A vacuum cleaner assembly comprising:
a dirty air outlet nozzle;
a vacuum bag having a substantially rigid collar surrounding a bag opening;
a bag docking assembly mounted adjacent the dirty air outlet, the bag docking assembly comprising:
an anchor member having a central opening for closely, releasably receiving the dirty air outlet, the anchor member being sufficiently deformable to permit the central opening to be engaged with or removed from the dirty air outlet, and
a mounting member releasably connected to the anchor member and movable between a loading position in which the vacuum bag is inserted into or removed from the mounting member and a working position in which an opening in the vacuum bag engages the dirty air outlet, the mounting member restricting deformation of the anchor member when connected thereto to restrict the anchor member from being removed from the dirty air outlet.
36. (New) The assembly of claim 35 wherein the loading position is separate from the working position by an angle greater than 90 degrees.

37. (New) The assembly of claim 35 wherein the mounting member is substantially planar, the anchor member is substantially planar, and the anchor member is constructed to have a shape complementary to the opening in the mounting member so that the assembly is substantially planar when in the working position.

38. (New) The assembly of claim 37 further comprising a latch operable to releasably retain the assembly in the working position.

39. (New) The assembly of claim 38 wherein the latch comprises a protrusion extending from the edge of the anchor member that engages the opening in the mounting member when the assembly is in the working position.

40. (New) The assembly of claim 35 further comprising a retainer member attached to the mounting member for engaging the retainer opening in the vacuum bag.

41. (New) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 9 wherein the vacuum bag further comprises a collar having two opposing side margins, an end margin, and corner portions between the end margin and the opposing side margins, and in which at least one corner portion is beveled at an angle to the end margin and the adjacent side margin.

42. (New) The assembly of claim 35 wherein the substantially rigid collar further comprises opposing side margins, an end margin and corner portions between the end margin and the opposing side margins, at least one of the corner portions being at an angle with respect to the end margin and the adjacent side.